

Warringal Conservation Society is a local community organisation caring for the environment in Banyule.

Formed in 1970, the Society is an active and productive steward of Banyules' environmental heritage.

Any news, articles or photographs for the newsletter from members and friends are always welcome.

Keep up to date on WCS, local and wider environmental news by visiting our Facebook page or our website www.warringal.org.au

Join us!

WCS offers members monthly meetings with guest speakers from a wide range of disciplines and interests. The planting morning is a nice way to get out into our parkland areas every month and help make them even better than they are now.

Membership forms and details inside this newsletter and on the web page.

The newsletter is also available by email.

Newsletter printed courtesy of Jenny Macklin MP

JULY SPEAKER

Rachel Lynskey - Sustainable Cities

Rachel is the Sustainable Cities Campaigner for Friends of the Earth. She says that Melbourne is in the middle of a transport planning nightmare. Rachel will talk to us about development of a sustainable community transport plan for Melbourne – and strategies for development of community support against the North East Link.

Come and join members and friends for our shared winter meal before the meeting from 6.15pm. Details page 2.

AUGUST SPEAKER

Dr Greg Moore - Urban Trees: more benefits than costs

Greg will talk on the topic of 'Urban Trees: more benefits than costs', explaining why trees make good sense economically as well as providing wildlife habitat. Greg has been involved with the National Trust of Victoria's Register of Significant Trees, Greening Australia (Vic), Treenet and the Trust for Nature.

SEPTEMBER SPEAKER

Dr Ken Walker - Museums Victoria: Native Bees of Australia

Dr Ken Walker is Senior Curator of Entomology and Arachnology at Museum Victoria. Therefore he is the go-to man for bugs and spiders. We have asked him to talk about native bees, which we can all encourage to our gardens and parks.

Meetings on the first Thursday of the month from 7.30pm at the Old Shire Offices, 60 Beverley Road, Heidelberg. Enter from Beverley Road Melways map 32:D3. All welcome

AT A GLANCE

JULY:

Thursday 5: General meeting. Shared winter meal from 6.15pm
Meeting from 7.30pm: Sustainable Cities

Sunday 8: Planting at Banyule Native Gardens (see News + Events)

Sunday 29: National Tree Day planting (see News + Events)

AUGUST:

Thursday 2: General meeting from 7.30pm: Urban Trees

Sunday 12: Planting at the Frog Bog (see News + Events)

SEPTEMBER:

Thursday 6: General meeting. from 7.30pm: Native Bees

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/TREASURER

Two months have gone by and we have plunged into winter. Our attention has been much on a freeway, as the awaited Draft Scoping Requirements of the North East Link Project were made public. These requirements guide the preparation of the Environment Effects Statement, a state inquiry covered by the Environment Effects Act 1978, going into a lot of detail of the possible impacts of the project. We submitted our comments which are sent with this newsletter as an attachment. Time now to catch our breath.

June 30th is approaching fast and then I shall be trying to get the financial figures to tally. And while that happens I know many will be sending in their subscriptions for 2018-2019! Thanks to the early birds.

Information about how to send your fees is now in a permanent box in each newsletter, including how to transfer money directly to our account. Donations are always very welcome.

We have recently seen closure of two projects for which we had grants: the Banyule Flats Map - with thanks to Bendigo Bank - available in hard copy or online; and WCS's brand new website! Please take a look at www.warringal.org.au. We thank Banyule City Council for a grant and Websolutionz Inc. for their expertise.

Daphne Hards

UPCOMING NEWS

A liveable north east: North East Link Forum

The forum will be covering the public transport improvements we could see for the same investment as a this new toll-road. Options to improve our existing roads and to get trucks off them will be discussed. The environmental and health impacts of the proposed project will be on the agenda.

If you're concerned about the North East Link, or if you want to see Government making the right investments, then this is the event for you.

This event is not organised by NELA.

July 17, 2018 7pm - 9pm. Manningham Function Centre, Doncaster Rd Doncaster

Registration via:

https://victoria.greens.org.au/em_fo_20180717?utm_campaign=yourvoiceforthenortheast&utm_medium=email&utm_source=agv

July dinner

We will share a meal from 6.15pm prior to the meeting as a mid-year opportunity to catch up with friends and members. All food will be provided by

the Committee for a small donation (\$10 adults, \$5 children) to fund operating costs and the Warringal Prize. Fruit juice, soft drink, tea and coffee will be supplied. BYO alcohol.

Cultural River Precinct

Dianne Williamson, Daphne Hards and Michelle Giovas attended a second workshop to give community ideas into the Cultural River Precinct Structure Plan. This plan was a key directive from the Yarra River Action Plan (2017) and is being developed by the Dept. of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. It encompasses the land between Bullen Park and Banyule Flats and will provide direction to future land use, open space and development over a 50 year period. Community members were encouraged to comment on the Yarra and its landscapes through the corridor, including cultural sites, recreational spaces, foot and bike paths, land use and future development.

Welcome to a New Member:

We extend a warm welcome to Tim Curmi

HOW TO CONTACT US

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Planting Coordinator: Heather Smith 0423 191 977

Newsletter Team: Editors: James Dean, Gianna Romano. Telephone: 9458 5985 Email: wcs.editor@gmail.com
Compilation + Mailing: Margaret Pollock, Heather Smith, Don Stokes

Upcoming Plantings

[See the facebook page for updates: especially in regards to weather conditions or locations]

Sunday 8 July: Planting at Banyule Native Gardens

From 10am - 12noon. At the Pond bed. Infill planting and weeding among last seasons work. Just off Banyule Road, Viewbank. Melway ref 32:F1



Sunday 29 July: National Tree Day planting

From 10am - 12noon. At the southern end of the Warringal Swamp. Enter the Main Yarra Trail near the Possum Hollow playground, Beverley Road, Heidelberg. Melway ref 32:F1



Sunday 12 September: Planting at the Frog Bog

From 10am - noon. Back at the Frog Bog, filling in the gaps - hoping to hear some frogs calling. Opposite the end of the Somerset Drive car park. Melway 32:F2. More details next newsletter or check out the FB page.

Report on special WCS members' meeting with NELA ecologists

On 17 May 2018 we had a special meeting for WCS members with six people from NELA including fauna and flora experts:

- Katie Watt, Director Land, Planning and Environment – NELA
- Monique Roser, Manager Environment, Social and Planning – Technical Advisor to NELA
- Cameron Miller, Botanist – Technical Advisor to NELA
- Richard Retallick, Zoologist – Technical Advisor to NELA
- Kelly Dalton, Zoologist – Technical Advisor to NELA
- Patrick Maiden, Aquatic Ecologist – Technical Advisor to NELA

A useful explanation of the processes and timing for both the Commonwealth Environment Protection, Biodiversity and Conservation Act (EPBC) Referral and the Victorian Environment Effects Statement (EES) was provided. WCS had already submitted comment on the EPBC Referral and has subsequently commented on the draft EES Scoping document. There will be further opportunity to comment when reports are released for the Commonwealth Public Environment Review (PER) and the EES. It is expected that both reports will become available in early 2019.

Areas of study for the EES include: Aboriginal cultural heritage; Air quality; Arboriculture; Business; Ecology (flora, fauna and aquatic); Greenhouse gas; Ground movement; Groundwater; Historic heritage; Human health; Land contamination; Land use planning; Landscape and visual; Noise; Social and community; Surface water; Traffic and transport; and Vibration.

Each of the specialist ecologists described the ways in which they are assessing current environmental status and potential impacts from the planned roadworks; comprising both desk top and fieldwork studies. In addition to identifying species which are present the habitat is being assessed (e.g. Swift parrots may not be present on the days in which field work surveys are conducted, but potential habitat to support the species can still be identified and matched with documented sightings). The potential for impact of noise etc during breeding and migration times (eg for Australian Grayling) is also being identified so that this can be taken into account during construction.

Dianne Williamson

Duck Shooting June Report

Following last year's Pegasus Economics' report into the Game Management Authority, shooters had to abide by new regulations this year. They had firstly to recover dead birds and to 'humanely' dispatch any wounded birds before shooting at other birds. They could not leave wounded or whole dead birds to rot on the wetlands. Nevertheless, shooters still breached regulations. Activists recorded and reported 24 instances of illegal behaviour to the Game Management Authority for follow-up and prosecution.

This year the Government also closed an unprecedented number of wetlands that held threatened species: an action that would have saved thousands of protected and threatened waterbirds, escaping drought conditions in NSW and Queensland, from the shooters' guns in Victoria.

The season ended on June 14th. On the last day of the season at Cundare Pool, north of Colac in Western Victoria, some 8,000 pink-eared ducks had gathered. Eight shooters used an airboat to illegally speed across the surface of the water and flush the birds into their gunfire. There were no regulating officers present; but the illegal behaviour was captured on rescuers' footage and sent to the Game Management Authority with the shooters' registration numbers. The ABC and many other media outlets reported widely on the incident.

Members are urged to please help keep pressure on the Premier, the Ministers, and your local MP by telling them you want recreational duck shooting in Victoria permanently banned.

Premier Daniel Andrews:
daniel.andrews@parliament.vic.gov.au

Minister for Agriculture (Jaala Pulford):
pulford@parliament.vic.gov.au

Minister for Environment (Lily D'Ambrosio):
lily.d'ambrosio@parliament.vic.gov.au

Celia Smith



Seven of the victims left by shooters at Cundare Pool on 14th June

Opera House Nets to be banned in Victoria

From the 1st of July 2019, opera house nets are to be banned in all public and private waterways in Victoria. They will be phased out. This is not only good news for the platypus, but also good news for turtles, rakali, birds, and other air-breathing wildlife.

New open top lift nets are now more readily available to replace opera house nets. These are proven effective yabby catchers. As part of the changes, a one-for-one trade-in is planned whereby fishers can trade in their old opera house nets for free 'wildlife friendly' open top lift nets. Hoop nets can also be used.

The Victorian Fisheries Authority will work with the fishing tackle sector, anglers, and environmental groups on an awareness campaign around 'wildlife friendly' yabby gear leading up to the 1st of July next year. Many shops have already stopped selling opera house nets. Hopefully, other shops will stop very soon as well.

WCS has written letters several times about the cruel opera house net which is used to catch yabbies and does not allow other wildlife to escape. We are very pleased indeed that the Government has listened to community concerns and has acted so positively.

Celia Smith

North East Link Project Update

The news on NEL really relates to the environmental assessments process that needs to be done. The first is an Environmental Effects Statement under state Legislation for Department Environment, Water, Land & Planning DEWLP, the second under Federal Environment Protection Biodiversity & conservation Act requires NELA to prepare a Public Environmental Report (PER), for aspects that impact the Commonwealth – migratory birds, endangered habitat and species and Defence land .

The WCS Committee have worked very hard to prepare a submission on the draft EES Scoping Requirements for North East Link Project which closed for public comment on Tuesday 12th June. Issues that were raised were:

- the potential alteration of hydrology impacting surface water in creeks, reed beds, swamps and billabongs
- deterioration of water quality in creeks and the Yarra River
- conversion of Banyule Creek and Koonung Creek to barrel drains, altering the microclimate of these creeks and reducing surface water for wildlife
- loss of remnant bushland at the Simpson Barracks

- loss of habitat trees throughout the corridor, including likely removal of the very old culturally significant River Redgum scar tree at the corner of Bridge Road and Manningham Road,
- road design which needs to balance the need for wildlife crossing whilst restricting access to road surfaces.

Then on 13th June (day after submissions on the state assessment process closed!) the Federal Government approved an application by NELA to extend the project area as shown in diagram which will need to be subject to the PER (see second diagram below). NELA didn't inform anyone that they had sought this change to the Federal Assessment project study area.

Now this doesn't change the process or the project much. However it does show how unsuccessful NELA is at truly consulting with the public and the Community Liaisons Groups (CLGs) which it established and which Warringal is a part of. So far the Northern Group has met only once, back on the 18th May, the next meeting is scheduled for Friday 29th June. The only item of note to come out of the first meeting is advice the NELA are not 'bound' by the ground breaking Yarra River Protection Act 2017 but will 'respect' it?

If you have any questions or issues you would like raised please contact WCS CLG Rep Michelle Giovas.

Michelle Giovas



General Meeting 3 May 2018

Hosted by Daphne Hards, President/Treasurer

Regrettably, due to other commitments, Don Stokes has resigned from our committee, but we thank him for his work particularly in relation to the organization and construction for the Kids Arty Farty Festival.

Heather Smith has been doing considerable work for the Committee, including maintenance of the membership list, organizing plantings and events, and working on the production of the map, signs and website. She has been co-opted as a Committee member.

Work is continuing on development of our new website.

Maps of Banyule Flats have been printed. We wish to show our great thanks to Anthea for her delightful pen and ink map. And to Heather for her masterful skills for digital colouring and bringing the whole to fruition; with committee input and a grant from Bendigo Bank.

North East Link

Activities since the last meeting

The Federal Minister for the environment, Josh Frydenberg, has determined that NEL is a 'controlled action' and therefore requires a 'public environmental assessment', which will likely provide us with another opportunity to present our concerns.

The committee hosted a meeting of representatives of environment groups to discuss NEL concerns and potential environmental compensation projects on May 1. Participants were from WCS, Friends of Banyule, Riverlands Conservation Soc., Friends of Wilson's Reserve and Yarra Riverkeepers. It was very positive to have good discussions with other Banyule conservation groups, and out of it WCS put together our own wish list and submitted it to NELA.

Michelle and Dianne met with Josh Frydenberg and members of Residents United Against NELA on 2 May to discuss environmental implications of NEL. Our concerns for faunal and floral species listed under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 were expressed in addition to public health issues.

Members attended a rally at A. Carbine's office on April 23 to protest against mega roads in conjunction with Friends of the Earth and the Greens. There was no response from within.

NELA held eight community drop-in sessions where updated concept plans were displayed. Thanks to Michelle, WCS attended seven of them. We talked to anyone who was interested in hearing about our environmental concerns for NEL, or to people who are anxious about what the outcomes could be.

Environmental issues

Save Strathallan Open Space Community Coalition

Daphne has been attending committee meetings. A rally to save the open space (now occupied by Strathallan Golf Course) being resumed by La Trobe University and possibly sold to developers is planned for June 17th, at 11am. The land falls well within the foraging range of the endangered Swift Parrot which has been seen recently at La Trobe University.

Live Export

We have written to the Prime Minister and three other federal politicians expressing our concerns regarding live exports. 3 May we received a reply from Jenny Macklin deploring the exposures on 4 Corners and saying the Government must act quickly to halt live shipments during northern summers. When interviewed, Shadow Minister Joel Fitzgibbon said the Coalition Govt is inept, and NZ is comfortable with its ban since 2003!

Banyule House update

On 3 May we submitted an updated 'statement of grounds' to VCAT in opposition to Banyule House planning application.

Other Committee involvement

Healthy waterways

The proposed preliminary targets for the Yarra Catchment were released and Dianne has submitted comment on behalf of WCS. The Working Group has finalized the goals and vision statement for the draft strategy document

Yarra Catchment Vision: *Our Yarra catchment waterways are increasingly protected, respected and collaboratively cared for by Traditional Owners, government and community as living and highly valued entities. They are a linked network of thriving corridor and instream spaces which nurture biodiversity, deepen the relationship between people and nature, build resilience as our population grows and the climate changes, and contribute to well-being and liveability. Their ecological health and value to the community continuously improves through rehabilitated waterways and balanced uses.*

Coming events of interest

Mullum Mullum Festival

28-29 April and 5-6 May. Four days of walks, talks and activities based on indigenous culture and the local natural environment.

Transition to a safe climate: creating a new story for Banyule.

4 and 5 May. Ian Dunlop will speak on Emergency Action in the Face of Climate Change, at 7pm on

COMMITTEE REPORTS CONTINUED

Friday 4 May. Saturday 5th May 9.00am - 5.30pm full day workshop to develop big ideas for community projects in Banyule. Bookings essential.

Samantha Dunn (Vic Greens MP) Roundtable discussion at her office Mon 7 May.

VCAT Hearings for Banyule House 8 days from Mon 18 June. Members encouraged to join the gallery to demonstrate opposition to plans to use the property as a wedding/reception venue.

Melbourne Water Collaboration workshop 4

Thurs 14 June, 9.30-1.30 venue TBA.

Special WCS Members' meeting

A special WCS Members' only meeting with NELA's ecology team representatives on Thursday 17 May, 7.30 at the OSO.

Tonight's Speaker was to be Dr Susan Hoebee from La Trobe University talking about Grevillea and Banksia, but unfortunately she was a late cancellation. With so many events happening there was a lot of discussion and time for members to raise topics and ask questions. In no time it was time for supper.

General Meeting 6 June 2018 Hosted by Celia Smith, Committee member

The new website has been launched from 31st May, and several committee members are updating their skills for its use. Heather and Michelle will attend a Social Media Workshop conducted by the Victorian Environmental Friends Network on Sat 16th June

Planting/weeding activities

Our next planting is scheduled for Sunday 17th June and will be at native gardens. The following planting is scheduled for 8th July at Studleyensis. The National Tree Day planting will be at Warringal Swamp South on July 29th.

North East Link

Our activities since the last meeting have included:

- WCS comment provided to the Heidelberg Leader on NEL. The comment and a photo of Daphne, Dianne, and Dennis were published on the Leader's front page on the 15th May.
- WCS members' Meeting with NELA Ecologists on the 17th May, with 6 NELA representatives.
- WCS has been added as a co-signatory to a Joint open letter to residents. This was initiated by a roundtable discussion at Samantha Dunn's office.
- WCS comment was included in a Heidelberg Leader article on May 22nd about the Cultural Precinct Plan and its potential conflict with NEL.

- WCS letter was sent to NELA re continued environmental concerns, and requests for projects to compensate for and reduce the NEL environmental impact.

- A further roundtable meeting at Samantha Dunn's office was attended by Michelle, Dianne and Dennis on the 7th May.

- WCS joined with FOB and RUANELA and met to discuss latest NELA designs on 10th May.

- Friends of the Earth action planning meeting for 'Get On Board' held on May 19th was attended by Don and Dennis.

Environmental issues - Other Committee involvement

Yarra River Action Plan - Cultural Precinct

There have been two community consultation workshops on the Cultural Precinct on the 12th and 19th of May. Daphne, Michelle, Dianne and Anne represented WCS. Although Banyule Flats appeared to be included in the Precinct according to the wording of the Yarra River Action Plan, it was excluded from the consultant's studies and the maps presented on 12th of May. After consultation with BCC, the Committee sent a letter asking for BF to be included.

Save Strathallan Open Space Community Coalition Inc.

The Coalition will have a planning rally at the golf course on Sunday June 17th at 11am. The Strathallan Open Space land was bought by La Trobe University in 1996, and is now at threat of being developed. This would mean loss of a significant environmental area, and a significant Buffer Zone between the Habitat Link and Residential Area. It would mean loss of recreational and social facilities, tranquillity, potential housing values, and public amenities. It would also lead to increased pressure on the already overloaded roads. Lobbying of politicians continues. Daphne is seeking bird records for golf course sighting, including those of swift parrots.

Ancient Spirit and Lore of the Yarra

Michelle attended the joint event on the 31st May which launched the Wurrundjeri Council's Nhanbu narrun ba ngargunin twarn Birrarung (Ancient Spirit and Lore of the Yarra), along with the Yarra River 50 Year Community Vision.

Coming events of interest

Save Strathallan Open Space Community Coalition Inc.

As mentioned earlier, the Coalition will have a planning rally at the golf course on June 17th.

Banyule House hearing

Banyule Council, WCS, and many other community groups and individuals have objected to the

development of a function centre at Banyule House. Daphne submitted a 'Statement of Grounds' in response to the amended plans. The 8-day VCAT hearing goes from 18th to 22nd of June and 25th to 28th June. WCS members are encouraged to join the gallery for an hour or a day or more to support us. Check the VCAT website the afternoon prior to your attendance to confirm times and venue:
<https://www.vcat.vic.gov.au/todays-hearings>

The Yarra Catchment Collaboration workshop 4

This was scheduled for Thurs 14th June, 9.30-1.30 pm, but has been postponed. Daphne, Michelle, and Dianne were scheduled to attend.

'It's your Yarra – shape the plan'

Melbourne Water workshops on 16th and 17th June will be attended by Dianne, Daphne, Michelle, and possibly other interested members.

Preview of Next Month - July

Next month's mid-winter sustainable cities meeting will start at 6.15pm with a warming meal provided by the Committee.

Dinner will be followed by a talk from Rachel Lynskey, from Friends of the Earth, about the 'Get on Board' campaign and the development of a sustainable community transport plan for Melbourne.



One of the five significant gums at risk of removal on the Banyule House property.

Banyule Homestead VCAT appeal UPDATE

Banyule Homestead appeal against change of use is underway at VCAT as a 9 day major case. The owners want to change it into a function centre, catering for 160 patrons with 48 carparks. Apart from extensive building works this will require the removal of a further five trees.

Key points raised against this application have been that the function centre fundamentally does not conform with the planning scheme requirements for non-residential use in a residential zone. There is also argument that the proposed 3.0m+ fences on the north and south side of the property are inconsistent with local character. Other points are noise, landscaping, traffic, car parking and heritage.

WCS members will provide submission to VCAT on environmental issues such as loss of heritage views and vistas, heritage issues, noise and light impacts on Banyule Flats, significant tree removal, stormwater pollution risks, waste and sewer requirements.

The VCAT Tribunal members have already visited the Homestead site and the Banyule Flats viewing area. The Banyule Estate Residential Group (BERG) VCAT campaign, with other residential groups and Banyule City Council has been exemplary and inspirational. It's been QC's, planning solicitors, town planners, acoustic and arboreal experts and passionate professional residents at 20 paces. The hard work of BERG committee members in coordinating and preparing the non-professionals for their presentations is very much appreciated and has been witnessed first hand by WCS members who have attended the VCAT hearings.

Report and photos by Michelle Govias



The Banyule Estate was one of the earliest rural allotments in Melbourne and was purchased by Joseph Hawdon, who built Banyule House in 1846. This heritage needs to be protected.

June Speaker – Tim Curmi – Native Fish

Tim Curmi is the President of the Victorian Branch of Native Fish Australia (NFA). The branch consists of concerned volunteer fishing enthusiasts who are promoting Australian native fish. Since the early 1980's NFA has been raising awareness of native fish, because back then fishing was all about introduced Rainbow Trout and Brown Trout. They have represented native fish and anglers to both state and Federal governments. They collect data on fish stocks all over Victoria, particularly at fishing competitions; data from the Murray competition goes back 24 years. Tim is passionate about his subject; the branch meets once a month at Latrobe Wildlife Sanctuary and they also have a small hatchery at La Trobe University where they breed Trout Cod and Macquarie Perch.

Introduced species of fish can be very destructive of native fish. In order to give their native fingerlings a healthy chance of survival, Tim's group lobbies for appropriate stocking rates of introduced fish across Victoria. They encourage and support junior anglers, while promoting sustainable angling. And they have achieved seasonal closures to protect the breeding times of endangered native species.

Success has come in improvement of stock numbers of Trout Cod in the Ovens and Goulburn Rivers. Encouraged, the group is working with the City of Bendigo with the aim to reintroduce native fish to Bendigo Creek – Southern Pygmy Perch and Murray River Rainbow Fish. Habitat is important, and the group reintroduces snags to the upper reaches of creeks and rivers to provide shelter.

Carp are a big problem as they compete for food sources and now make up 80% of the biomass in catches. The Carp Herpes Virus is said to be very specific, however there is still debate as to whether it should be released. A big worry is that large numbers of dead carp will use up all available oxygen causing death of all aquatic life. We need a tasty recipe to raise its profile for the plate! Tim says it's good eating.

The Yarra has a surprising number of native endemic fish species:

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Australian Greyling (Vulnerable) | • Pygmy Perch |
| • Australian Bass | • Mountain Galaxid |
| • River Blackfish | • Flat-headed Gudgeon (La Trobe Uni moat) |
| • Estuary Perch | • Spotted Galaxid |
| • Eels | • Smelt |
| • Lamprey | • Broad-finned Galaxid |
| • Common Galaxid (good for a fish pond) | • Tupong (migrate to estuary) |

Threats to native fish are many. Brown Trout, introduced from UK in the 1860's eat small fish, e.g. galaxids, gudgeon, smelt, as well as frogs and bugs. English Perch (Redfin) are very destructive to native fish and spread disease. NSW has declared it as noxious. Carp, introduced in Gippsland, have already been highlighted. Gambusia, the Mosquito Fish, is everywhere and competes for food and is very aggressive to native fish.

Daphne Hards

Poster of Australian fish from Tim Curmi's presentation



Short-finned Eel

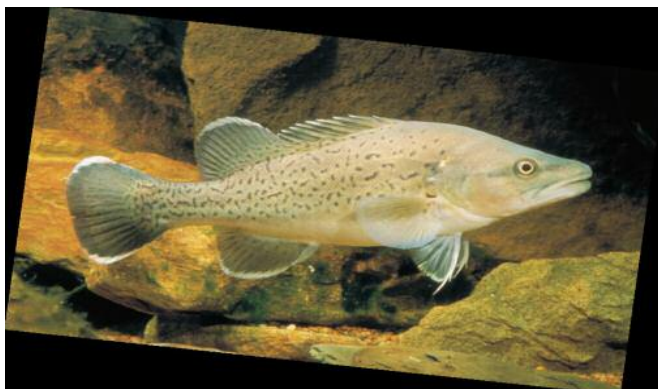


Galaxiid



NFA - Dedicated to Australian Freshwater Native Fish

25



Trout Cod



Carp



Mosquito Fish



Brown Trout



English Perch (Redfin)

Poster of Australian fish from Tim Curmi's presentation

Green Army come to our patch

You may have spotted them in bright yellow shirts around the Banyule Flats area but don't let that fool you - they are by name and nature, a Green Army.

They worked alongside Council's Bushland Management unit to improve natural areas in the Banyule region, encouraging and enhancing indigenous plant growth and to increase biodiversity. While restoring natural habitats they were gaining practical experience in bushland management and developing skills and knowledge that will transfer to their future roles.

Work they did has also enhanced some of our own planting areas: at Banyule Flats Reserve in Viewbank over 250 woody weeds have been removed from along the banks of the billabong, and indigenous species have been planted to provide more suitable habitat for native fauna.

They were a great bunch and joined us at the May planting at our new site – Frog Bog. President Daphne and myself went along to their graduation ceremony at the Council Chambers to wish them luck.

Heather Smith



LAST NOTES

Banyule Gardens for Wildlife

In February, Banyule Council in partnership with Victorian Indigenous Nursery's Co-operative (VINC), launched a pilot program, Banyule Gardens for Wildlife. Three WCS members were lucky to be involved.

About 25 people met at VINC for a workshop on Banyule's indigenous plant communities, garden preparation and specific plant characteristics and of course what wildlife we could expect to attract. Next was a visit by an experienced indigenous plant and wildlife gardener to each individual garden to talk about the participant's vision for their space. She recorded the layout and features e.g. mature trees, soil types etc. and developed a plan for that used the local indigenous plants to attract different wildlife to areas of the gardens. We were also supplied with a voucher for 20 free tubes from VINC to get started.

The program encourages the planting of indigenous species in the yards of Banyule to strengthen biodiversity, enhance our wildlife corridors, create habitat, and to grow some beautiful gardens. It creates a community of residents who love to be outside in their gardens, as well

as a place to share tips and their stories of the experiences had while wildlife gardening.

If you would like to know more about Gardens for Wildlife program, subscribe to the Banyule Council's environment newsletter *Green Wrap* at: www.banyule.vic.gov.au/newsletter

Heather Smith



VINC Manager, Mark Hursch shows us around the nursery

WCS MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE IN JULY

WCS membership renewals for 2018/2019 are due in July. Membership income plays an important part in the ongoing administration of the Society. It pays bills like the hall rent, insurance and postage.

Subscriptions can be paid to the Treasurer Daphne Hards at a meeting or a planting, or by cheque with the form below or by using the form on the website.

You can also pay electronically with a direct debit into the Society's bank account:

Account name: Warringal Conservation Society
BSB: 633 108
Account no: 143918613

Be sure to identify yourself as the depositor. If you have any queries email warringal3084@gmail.com.

WARRINGAL CONSERVATION SOCIETY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Subscription type:

- ☐ Single \$20
- ☐ Family \$25
- ☐ Concession (seniors/students etc)
- ☐ Life subscription \$200

Please fill in this form and mail
with cheque or money order to:
Warringal Conservation Society
PO Box 64 Rosanna 3084 Victoria

Name: _____

Address _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Mobile _____

Special areas of interest: *This helps us when looking for speakers and arranging events.* _____

☐ I would like to receive my newsletter by email

☐ Yes - put me on the email plantings notification list

May 2018 Nature Notes

Dianne Williamson reported seeing 2 swans at Banyule Swamp on 1 May and Crimson Rosellas in her garden.

Jane Crone had great views of a pair of Gang Gangs in her Liquid Amber in Eaglemont

William Deane saw Musk Lorikeets in Price Park. Also Little Ravens and Sulphur-crested Cockatoos at Viewbank College.

Robert Deane has seen Long-billed Corellas at Viewbank Primary and found a Swift Moth, a visitor to the Old Shire Office.

Denise Fernando reported the magnificent sightings of 40-50 Swift Parrots at La Trobe University, at or near the moat and Carpark 7.

Michelle Giovas had seen Pied Currawong. They are beginning to gather in flocks.

Lloyd Churches had been swooped by Corellas in Diamond Creek.

Doug McNaughton reported that there were 5-7 Tawny Frogmouths occupying trees along Salt Creek in Rosanna Parklands. Also up to 30 Little Lorikeet had been seen.

May 2018 Nature Notes

Kevin Giovas reported Wombats in Liz Evans' garden in Rivergum Close. Also an Eastern Spinebill, and Tawny Frogmouths in Romney St.

Dianne Williams has seen Intermediate Egrets at Banyule Flats, and a Falcon flying over – either a Peregrine or a Hobby. There were Red-browed Finches on the scarp, and Crimson Rosellas in her garden.



Photo courtesy: Karl Landorf 2018

Lene Jakobsen for the first time observed Spotted Pardalotes in her front garden.

Denise Fernando reported that Swift Parrots had stayed at La Trobe University for two months.

Daphne Hards has a pair of Mudlarks, alias Magpie-larks, in her garden.

Anthea Fleming remarked that Pincushion Hakea (*Hakea laurina*) is in flower, and a Red Wattlebird was feeding in it. She showed some slides taken on the newly completed Darebin Creek Path, including the re-planted Waller Reserve, and some Red-rumped Parrots, a Rainbow Lorikeet and a Pied Currawong seen there

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